

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AT GENEVA

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DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE TURQUIE
AUPRES DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
A GENEVE



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TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA**

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me first congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the Council Bureau. I am confident that substantial progress will be achieved under your able leadership during this session. Allow me to express our gratitude to your predecessor Mr. Christian Strohal for his personal commitment and valuable guidance during the year.

It is also my pleasure to welcome Myanmar and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as new members of IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

IOM has been involved in many initiatives and efforts in the field of migration. Over time much has been achieved. In this vein, I thank Mr. Director General for his comprehensive and visionary report on the milestones of the last four years and challenges ahead of us. IOM's achievements and operational responsiveness in the migration field are well known and highly appreciated.

Indeed, I would like to stress that IOM's success is cultivated on various pillars. This has been achieved through its close dialogue and collaboration with States and its assistance to their efforts in the migration field. Therefore, on the road to the Organization's 65th anniversary in the year 2016, we believe that maintaining the constructive dialogue and the fruitful cooperation with states will further strengthen its effectiveness and success as a migration agency.

We welcome the collaboration between Turkey and IOM on various aspects of migration management. IOM has accumulated significant experience in Turkey. It has helped build up a certain added value to our efforts in this field. A lot of progress has been achieved in combating human trafficking and addressing challenges of irregular migration and generally managing migration with the assistance of IOM Ankara Office.

Thus, we praise the Organization's internal reform efforts. We value the dialogue between member states and Administration through the Working Group on Budget Reforms.

Mr. Chairman,

In recent years, we have witnessed many crises causing complex consequences. In this regard, we would like to specifically mention the major role of IOM during Libyan crisis. We had a good cooperation with IOM in the

evacuation of third country nationals in Libya. IOM's work in the Horn of Africa in addressing the plight of the stranded migrants is also noteworthy.

I would also like to touch upon Syrian crisis which have resulted in, among its multiple humanitarian consequences, mass population movements in the region. We are pleased to see that IOM is one of the international agencies on the ground in terms of evacuation of third country nationals through Turkey.

The establishment of IOM Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism is an important step to respond rapidly and effectively during crises. We call upon Members to contribute to this fund.

Mr. Chairman,

While managing irregular migration, we should also highlight the rights and needs of migrants. Turkey is a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. We pay a special attention to the safety, human rights and dignity of the migrants, while implementing polices related to migration management. We call on the States which have not yet done so, to adhere to this important international instrument for human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

We think that the Global Forum of Migration and Development is an excellent informal platform of dialogue. Its last summit took place in Mauritius on 21-22 November 2012 and provided fruitful exchange of views between States and civil society on the migration in every aspect. Turkey will be the Chair-in-Office of the Forum in 2015. We are ready to cooperate with IOM during our chairmanship with a view to mainstream migration into development efforts.

In the lead up to the second United Nations General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held in 2013, we believe IOM's substantive inputs as the leading migration agency, will present an added value for the dialogue. In this vein, along with other substantial contributions such as Global Migration Report, the IOM Diaspora Ministerial Forum to be organized next April in Geneva would provide useful inputs to the High Level Dialogue.

The time is ripe for fostering deeper cooperation in managing migration. In this regard, Turkey is committed to contribute to dialogue and action.

Thank you.